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will this Government at their expense do the further things necessary so that the Kozhikode municipality will have its water-supply at an early date?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The matter will be given consideration."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—"In view of the fact that water tax is being collected from 1936 onwards and no water-supply is mode so far, will the Government stop levying this water tax till supply of water is made?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"That cannot be done."

DR. K. B. MENON :—"Whatever be the findings and the mistakes made in the past, are the Government aware that there is only one major tank for the supply of water for the whole Kozhikode town? When there was a slight failure of monsoon year before the last, water in the town had to be rationed, and there was very actute scarcity of water. Do the Government propose to take immediate steps to tap alternative sources?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Yes, Sir. As early as possible the treatment works will be installed, and water will be made available to the people."

SRI A. APPU :—"Is it a fact, Sir, that large quantities of lead were taken away from the custody of the engineering staff, and, if so, who is responsible for the loss, and do the Government propose to take any departmental action against the officers who were responsible for the theft?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"A separate question may be put."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"Are these testing experts still in Government service?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The sanitary engineers of that time are no longer in service. They have retired."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"What is the result of the latest analysis about the iron content of the water?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The analysis shows that there is an excessive amount of iron, and it is not fit for either drinking or for industrial purposes unless it is treated."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Law, who was the Chairman then, be able to give us an insight into what has happened?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"If the hon. Member comes to my house, I shall answer."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"I do not want private information. I want public information." (Laughter.)

* 404 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—"Sir, in view of the importance of my question, I would like it to be taken up to-morrow for answer."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" To-morrow I want to finish off questions in half an hour and take up the food debate. But if the hon. Member still wants that his question should be taken up to-morrow, I have no objection."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" In view of the importance of the question, I want that it be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection."

Measures to alleviate the distress of beggars.

* 405 *Q.*—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are proposing to take any measures to alleviate the distress of beggars in the State; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) In Madras City there are at present a workhouse for able-bodied beggars and a Special Home for infirm and diseased beggars maintained by the Corporation.

In the mufassal, the municipalities of Coimbatore, Ooty and Nellore are running Special Homes for infirm and diseased beggars under the Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945. The Madurai Municipality has a proposal to start a combined workhouse and special home which will be put into operation at a very early date. A proposal to open a beggar home in Pudukkottai by the Municipality is also under the consideration of the Government.

The Government have no other specific schemes under consideration at present to alleviate the distress of beggars in the State."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" In view of the fact that the provisions in the Act are not satisfactorily implemented, what measures do the Government propose to take to see that the Act is worked satisfactorily? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is being worked only in certain towns. As far as I know, steps are being taken for the proper working of the Act."

SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, is there any distinction between the City beggars and mufassal beggars in view of the fact that the City beggars are more organised or are craving for more amenities? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" City beggars are more prosperous than rural beggars." (Loud laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the importance of this problem, may I ask the Government to appoint a committee to go into this question and arrive at a final solution? "